

PREPARE YE
THE WAY
OF THE LORD

BOOK 2

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*"THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US;
WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD. TURN AGAIN OUR CAPTIVITY,
O LORD, AS THE STREAMS IN THE SOUTH. THEY THAT
SOW IN TEARS SHALL REAP IN JOY. HE THAT GOETH
FORTH AND WEEPETH, BEARING PRECIOUS SEED, SHALL
DOUBTLESS COME AGAIN WITH REJOICING, BRINGING HIS
SHEAVES WITH HIM."*

PSALM 126:3-6

PROLOGUE

How I thank the Lord for His goodness in allowing me to have a part in the end-time ministry of raising up the “stones” of His spiritual house. For even now the Lord God is doing a work which is impossible for us to fully comprehend. The articles contained in this booklet are given to help you to understand that which God wants concerning an end-time “remnant” to REBUILD that which has been “waste” for many years as men have followed their own ways and desires instead of the Word of the Lord. But even now we see the formation of something new. We see the hearts of many crying out for a VOICE to guide and lead them in this hour, and for prophets of the Lord to make the paths straight before the people. And this is what the Lord is doing. He is hearing the cry of the hearts of His people; and even now the Lord is raising up unto His people those like Haggai and Zechariah who ministered to the remnant who had returned from the captivity. The Lord is now “turning” the “captivity” of His people (*Ps. 126*); and we are now beginning to return to ZION (His true spiritual city) with joy and singing (*Isa. 35:10*). For the Lord is truly doing a work of “rebuilding” that which has been broken down for many centuries.

We want to thank all who have encouraged this undertaking and who desire to receive more of these revelations. If you want to be on the mailing list, or know of others who would be receptive to this end-time message, please let us know.

"FROM THAT TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK, AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM. THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THE TWELVE, WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY? THEN SIMON PETER ANSWERED HIM, LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. AND WE BELIEVE AND ARE SURE THAT THOU ART THAT CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

JOHN 6:66-69

WHO SHOULD RESPOND?

All through the Bible we run into the truth of a “remnant” willing to give themselves wholly to the Lord and not follow the ways of man. It is the “remnant” that God has used time and again to fulfill His purpose for a particular time and age. God told Elijah: *“I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal”* (I Ki. 19:18). Hezekiah’s revival came through the “remnant” that escaped after the Assyrians had overrun both Israel and Judah up to the neck of Jerusalem (II Chron. 30:6; Isa. 8:6-8). Only a “remnant” returned from Babylon to rebuild the “house of God” (Ezra 2:64). There was the “remnant” in Jesus’ day who remained faithful after many others had turned away (Jn. 6:66-69). Other illustrations could be given.

One of the most interesting “remnants” we find in the Bible is that of Gideon’s 300 men. They were those who “remained” (remnant) out of the 32,000 who were CALLED. Even so it is true that *“many are called, but few are chosen”* (Matt. 22:14). Gideon said: *“Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him return”* (Jdg. 7:3). So today many who have begun to see a glimpse of an end-time glorious church which is going to overcome all the powers of the enemy and liberate the people of God, are turning back into the and security of their ways, traditions and churches. There was no condemnation to those who turned back; they were just not qualified for what God wanted to do through Gideon’s band. Then there was a TESTING at the water, with those who were drinking only to satisfy themselves. ALERT to

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be used, were told to go back to their homes. For God said: ***“Bring them down unto the water and I will try them for thee there”*** (Jdg. 7:4). So God is now TESTING us to see if we are seeking the things of the Spirit (water) just to satisfy our own desires and needs, or whether we are WATCHING for His purposes, ALERT to the enemy and EAGER to be used for His glory in this end-time. According to the pattern, we are seeing a separating and sifting in this hour that a BODY (a Gideon company) may come forth to fulfill all of God’s Will and be used as a mighty instrument in His hand.

A MIGHTY MESSENGER AND A LITTLE BOOK

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Revelation 8:1-2

Seven is the number of the church; therefore when the 7th seal is broken, matters concerning the church are contacted. This is also shown by the fact that when the 7th seal was broken there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. All heaven standing in raptured silence at that which is about to be revealed concerning events which will lead up to the final setting of the stage for the “mystery of God” (concerning His church) to be consummated.

After 6 angels have sounded (recorded in *chapters 8 and 9*), all things are ready for the master stratagem to unfold – for the “mystery of God” to be finished. So great is this final chapter in the age-long history of the church that a special “mighty angel” is dispatched from heaven to reveal the contents of a special “little book” (as recorded in *Rev. 10:1-2*). WHO is this mighty “angel” and WHAT is in this “little book?”

The Greek word for “angel” simply means a ‘messenger’ and can refer to anyone of earth or heaven with a special mission or message. When we read John’s description of this mighty “angel” (messenger) in *Revelation 10:1-3*, we realize

that none other than the LORD JESUS HIMSELF could be described thus. It is HE, the Covenant (rainbow) God, the mighty "messenger of the covenant" (*Mal. 3:1*) coming down to reveal unto John the end-time message for the church.

We see in *Revelation 10:2* that the mighty messenger with the little book "*set His right foot upon the sea, and His left foot on the earth.*" It is written that He shall subdue all things under His feet (*I Cor. 15:25-28*). And are not we, the members of His Body, the feet – the last ones of this age (in time) to come into that Body? So will the Lord Jesus, the head of the Body, bruise Satan under the feet of His Body, and we are those feet (*Rom. 16:20*).

In *Daniel 2*, we have the record of the image which Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream. In Daniel's interpretation of that dream, the feet of the image represented the last stage in history of the system which began with the head (Babylon). According to the same PATTERN, the church began with the HEAD (Jesus) and will be consummated IN TIME by the FEET. We, in this end-time, are the feet of the Body who are going to bruise the Serpent. In *Revelation 13*, we see a "beast" arising out of the "sea" (*Rev. 13:1*), and then a second "beast" arising out of the "earth" (*Rev. 13:11*). The "mighty messenger" of *Revelation 10:2* sets His right foot upon the "sea" and His left foot on the "earth." He is standing triumphantly over both that which would arise out of the "sea" and the "earth." And so will the "feet" of His Body in these end-times triumph over the Beast and his false system.

In *Revelation 10:1*, John says he saw the "angel's" feet as "pillars of fire." The Greek word for "pillar" here is the same word used in *Revelation 3:12* where the "overcomer" is to be made a "pillar in the temple of My God." The same word is also used in *Galatians 2:9*, and *I Timothy 3:15* in connection with the church. The Lord is going to make us "strong ones" in this day as "pillars" in His end-time "Temple" (Body), tested and refined in the fire.

In *Revelation 10:3* the "mighty angel" cries with a loud voice

as when a lion roars. Only the “lion of the tribe of Judah” (*Rev. 5:5*) could thus roar. It is not as a meek, sacrificial lamb who is dumb (*Isa. 53:7*) before the shearers, as at His first coming, but as a roaring lion (KING of beasts) of the tribe of Judah (the ROYAL tribe).

“And when He had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.”

Revelation 10:3

The “seven thunders” represent the church RESPONDING TO HIS CRY. It is even those in this hour who have ears to hear the Lion of the tribe of Judah now CALLING. The Apostle John (who received and recorded this vision) IN TYPE represents the end-time church. John was called a “son of thunder” (*Mk. 3:17*). So will the end-time “sons of thunder” HEAR the voice of the mighty messenger as He “roars” and shall RESPOND to the message of the “little book.”

In *Revelation 10:4* we read that when the “seven thunders” uttered their voices, John was about to write, and the voice from heaven said: *“Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not.”* WHY was not John permitted to write what he heard? Because the VOICE (message and ministry) of the seven thunders was RESERVED UNTIL THIS END TIME. It is NOW being revealed. What John was told to “seal up” is NOW BEING MADE KNOWN. This parallels a word given to Daniel, the Prophet, who was told to “seal up” his vision unto the “Time of the end” (*Dan. 12:4*).

In *Revelation 10* we read in *verses 5* and *6* that John sees the mighty messenger lift up his hand to heaven and “sware by Him that liveth forever and ever...that there should be time no longer.” The Berkeley version translates it, “There shall be no further delay.” That is, there would no longer be a time of delay or waiting for the CONTENTS of the little book to be revealed, for the “mystery of God” to be finished, and for the end-time church of the “seven thunders” to enter into her ministry. This is further indicated by *verse 7* which says: “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to

sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants, the Prophets.” The “mystery of God” is none other than the “mystery” revealed to Paul concerning the church (*Eph. 3:3-11*) *much of which has been veiled until this end-time.*

This “veiling” is shown by Rebekah (the BRIDE of Isaac, and a TYPE of the church) who was veiled until she was taken by Isaac into the tent (*Gen. 24:63-65*). Our Isaac (Christ) will LIFT the veil (of mystery) from off His Bride as He comes to meet her. And then there will be “mysteries” no longer as the Lord unfolds His purposes during the DAYS (plural) of the voice of the 7th trumpet, indicating that the 7th trumpet “blows” *over a period of time*, AFTER the mystery has *begun* to unfold. This is further indicated by the words “*when he shall begin to sound.*” If the 7th angel *begins* to sound, then he must *continue* to sound for a period of time. The final blast of this seventh trumpet will see the fulfillment of *I Corinthians 15:51-52* and *I Thessalonians 4:14-17*, when the dead in Christ shall be raised and the living in Christ shall be changed. The consummation of this sounding will be that recorded in *Revelation 11:15*: “*And the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever.*”

In *Revelation 10:9-10*, John is instructed to take the little book from the hand of the angel and “*eat it up.*” The angel then said: “*It shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.*” John obeys and “eats” the book, He then says: “*It was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.*” Those who are willing to accept the call to this end-time revelation and ministry, must be willing to accept the “bitter” with the “sweet.” That which God is revealing is SO SWEET to the taste, and we “*taste and see that the Lord is good*” (*Ps. 34:8*). But the Lord must PROVE us, and the testings necessary for the perfecting of God’s end-time remnant seem so bitter at times. But God must be certain that there will be no failures during the critical times just ahead. For the words unto John AFTER he had “eaten”

the little book were: *"Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."* HERE is the evidence that God's WORD will go forth during this end-time, during the *"days of the voice of the seventh angel,"* once again with mighty power to all nations as at the beginning. For JOHN in this vision stands for the end-time "remnant" which shall "prophesy" before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

SET IN BATTLE ARRAY

"Gather My saints together, those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

Psalm 50:5

The gathering is drawing near, and the Lord will take out from the midst of His people a company of consecrated ones who have made a covenant with Him to forsake all and follow after Him. They are the ones who have followed Him, as stated in *Revelation 14:4*, whithersoever He has led them. They will have heeded His Word, and have followed His way, and have not contaminated themselves. Therefore He will redeem them from the earth into a ministry on the other side of the veil, even as He will redeem a company on the earthly side of the veil who will be loosed into a ministry and into a battle for Him in this last day. They will not be limited by that which they have known before; neither will they be limited by the weaknesses and inabilities they have known before. For they will be strong ones in the Lord to go forth with mighty power in the coming day. They will be redeemed, liberated, into an end-time ministry of power.

Those He gathers unto Himself will be taken out of the earth, even as a firstfruits unto their God (*Rev. 14:4*), and will also be liberated into a ministry and into a battle. They are redeemed from among men so that they may be fully liberated from all the limitations of the flesh in a battle which is taking place on the other side. This is the standard that He will raise up unto His people when the enemy shall come in

like a flood (*Isa. 59:19*). It will be a standard of glorified ones who shall be used in the battle on the other side of Jordan, even in the realms of the Spirit, to bind and cast down to the earth the Satanic forces which dwell in the upper realms. Those satanic forces will be cast down (*Rev. 12:10*) and they will be bound. The glorified ones will bind the power of the enemy, for they will be used mightily in the battle of the great day of Almighty God as the enemy seeks to send out a flood to consume believers on the earth (*Rev. 12:15*). But it is written that the earth helped the woman in the wilderness (*Rev. 12:16*). The Firstfruits company will be in control of the elements of the earth at that time, that all of the forces of nature will be used to help those that are under the attack of the enemy. They will have entered into the first stages of that which will eventually be an absolute mastery over all the elements of the earth.

The Lord will take out of our midst 144,000 of the choicest believers, even those who have been faithful and have been perfected by Him. And they will be loosed away into that power and ministry awaiting them. Since they will have been faithful and have walked with their God, like Enoch, they will be taken. They will be caught up to God's Throne (*Rev. 12:5*), and there they will be invested with power to do only that which a tested and tried people can do, even those who have overcome in the flesh all the wiles of the enemy. Having overcome the enemy in the flesh, they will be used to overcome him in his own realm and drive him out even unto its borders, where he will be hemmed in. Then, as a roaring lion he will go forth to consume and destroy on the earth. But those the Lord will raise up and glorify shall then be used to stem the tide of anguish and destruction which the enemy will seek to bring against God's people yet on the earth. A mighty chain shall be used to bind the power of the enemy, and that chain which the Lord will gradually ensnare him in and bind him with, is none other than the might and power which the glorified ones will have. And then will the battle rage in its fury as the maddened demons of the nether world see their domain being stripped from them, and the chains

of bondage being wrapped about them. And in great fury they will make their stand in that day.

In that day of the battle of the Lord God Almighty, He will have two companies: the first on one side and the other on the other side of Jordan. One on the west, corresponding to the glorified ones, even the Firstfruits, who will be battling the enemy into submission in his own realm; and one on the east side of Jordan, which corresponds to the anointed company of overcomers who will still be on the earth. They too will be given great power over the enemy to drive him out of the realms where he has operated heretofore, and they will be helped greatly by that Standard which the Lord will raise up, even the glorified saints.

The Lord will be in that day as a wise military strategist who puts the enemy in a vise (a giant pincers movement), that He may crush him in between the two – one operating from the earthly and the other operating from the heavenly. So will the enemy be overcome and defeated in the battle of that day.

This is portrayed in Solomon's Temple. In front of the Temple were two mighty pillars – pillars of brass, refined in the fires. These pillars represent those who will be pillars in the end-time temple (*Rev. 3:12*), the first on the one side (of Jordan) and second on the other (symbolically speaking). The first was "*Jachin*" (*I Ki. 7:21*) for the Lord will be used to *establish* the Kingdom in power. And then He will raise up "*Boaz*" (*I Ki. 7:21*), those who have been left on the earth, and they also will minister in power in that realm which shall be committed to them. So will the Lord's purpose be accomplished, that THAT which He has ordained by pattern be fulfilled in that day. Now you should be able to understand why the Lord must remove some from our midst, for *the battle array must be set in order* and prepared; and then will He consummate all things which have been determined from the beginning.

Are you ready to be used in the battle of the great day of

God Almighty? You *will* be used *if* you will let Him equip you with His armor, and let Him train you in His ways of warfare and *if*, like a good soldier, you will obey Him implicitly; for this is what He demands of those who will be used to rout the enemy in these last days.

Now, let's review some of these thoughts.

The opening Scripture, *Psalms 50:5*, tells us of the Lord gathering together His saints, even those who have made with Him a covenant by sacrifice. This gathering is two-fold. First, it is a gathering together into *one*, those of the end-time Body of Christ, which is going to go forth on this earth to do exploits in His Name. Secondly, it is the gathering, or taking out, of the Firstfruits company just before the time of Great Tribulation. To each it is a "redemption" of a kind. To the "firstfruits," it is a "loosing" from the earthly into the heavenly realm for a ministry and a battle "on the other side." To that Body being joined together on the earth, it is a "loosing" from certain limitations, weaknesses and inabilities, into a ministry of power. In either case it can be said that we are to "*look up, and lift up your heads; for our redemption draweth nigh*" (*Lk. 21:28*).

Jesus speaks in *John 6:40,44,54*, of those who are to be "raised up" in the "last day." We usually take this to mean the resurrection of the dead. Certainly the thought of the resurrection is included, but we need not limit the meaning to this. There is a "raising up" from the earthly to the heavenly realm without the experience of death, even a translation or change from the physical to the "glorified" body. Such will be the experience of the Firstfruits before the Tribulation, because the Lord has a work for them to do on the "other side." Translating them into the "heavenly" is a part of His strategy and battle plan. They are that STANDARD spoken of in *Isaiah 59:19* which will be "raised up" at the crucial moment when the enemy begins to come in like a flood. And from their vantage in the heavenlies (Satan's own realm), and with the new-found powers of their "glorified bodies," they will be able to "strike a death blow" to the forces of Sa-

tan. At the same time, the Lord will empower His end-time Body still on the earth to go forth and “press the battle” from this side of the veil. And great victories will be won for the Lord because we will have the help and protection of the “glorified ones” “on the other side.”

These two end-time groups are symbolized by the two great pillars which stood in front of Solomon’s Temple. We read about them in *I Kings 7*. They were cast out of brass. This reminds us of John’s vision as recorded in *Revelation 1*, where he sees: “*One like unto the Son of man*” Whose feet were “*like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace.*” Also, the feet of the “mighty messenger” of *Revelation 10:1* was seen by John as “pillars of fire.” And those who “overcome” are to be made “*pillars in the Temple of My God*” (*Rev. 3:12*). “Brass” is a type of the physical or “fleshly” nature of man. Thus we see the picture of the purging, refining, and transmuting of the base characteristics of our “carnal nature” so that they might be cast into the image of Jesus Christ.

In reading *I Kings 7*, we notice that these two pillars were ornamented in a certain way. This ornamentation pictures that adornment and beautification with which the end-time Body of Christ shall be graced – the beauty of holiness, godliness, humility, glory, victory, boldness, overcoming power, etc. It will be a “*glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish*” (*Eph. 5:27*). We also see that on each “pillar” were hung the semblance of “pomegranates” – 200 on each pillar. This pictures the fruitfulness which will be brought forth by those who are “pillars” in the end-time church. The 200 on each pillar shows that separation (2 = division, discernment and screening) has done its complete work, reaching into the placement of SPIRIT. Are you willing to let the Lord make you “a pillar” in His end-time temple?

HIS WAYS UNTO MOSES

In *Psalm 103:7* we read these words: “*He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel.*” Notice the difference! His “acts” were made known to the entire nation; but His “ways” only to Moses. His “acts” were His mighty deeds – signs and wonders wrought by His mighty power. All the people of Israel saw the miracles which God performed for their deliverance and preservation. They saw the Red Sea rolled back for them to cross over; they saw the Egyptians destroyed by a mighty act of God; they saw the miraculous cloud which led them by day and the fiery pillar by night; they saw the heavenly manna provided for their sustenance, and they beheld the water surge forth from the rock by the mighty hand of God.

These and other “acts” the people of Israel constantly beheld as God performed mighty miracles in their midst. But ONLY MOSES ascended the “mount of God” to have made known to him the “ways” of God – the “ways” in which God wanted the people to WALK, in *obedience* to His Word, that they might be *prepared* for that which God wanted to do THROUGH them according to His *foreordained purpose*. His “acts” the people *beheld*, that their needs might be met, and that their faith might be quickened, as they realized their mighty God and Saviour was in their midst. But His “ways” they had to *learn*. And God had to have a man to whom He could *reveal* His Ways, and that man was Moses. Moses, thereafter, made known God’s Ways unto the people. But the tragedy of the situation was simply this: the people were constantly clamoring for a demonstration of the mighty “acts” of God,

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but they did not want to learn His "ways."

How very much Christian people are like this today! Multitudes are willing to seek after the "acts" of God, but only a few (a Moses company) are willing to fully learn His "ways." This does not mean that His "acts" are not important, but we should be primarily concerned with His "ways." In *Psalm 77:11-13* we read:

"I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember Thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all Thy work, and talk of Thy doings. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"

We are to remember and talk of all His doings (acts), but His WAY is *in the sanctuary*. The Hebrew word translated "sanctuary" means a 'separation' or a 'separated place'. In the Old Testament the "sanctuary" was the Tabernacle or the Temple built by command of God as a *separated place* where the priests ministered unto the Lord on behalf of the people, and where the "presence" of the Lord was manifested that He might speak to His specially chosen servants, Moses and Aaron. In the New Testament the "sanctuary" is a *separated people*, the very Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit (*I Cor. 3:16, 6:19; Eph. 2:20-22*); a royal priesthood that ministers unto God (*I Pet. 2:5,9*), and to whom God speaks and makes known His ways.

"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary." This means two things. First, the sanctuary (Tabernacle) built by Moses in the wilderness is actually a divinely ordained picture or pattern (in symbols of materials, structure, measurements, and objects) of GOD'S WAYS for His people. (This is too great a subject to go into at the present time and is beyond the scope of this article. You can request a copy of *THE MOSAIC TABERNACLE: PATTERN FOR THE UNIVERSE* from Shepherdsfield.) Secondly, it means that HIS WAYS are being made known TO and revealed THROUGH that "sanctuary" or "separated people" He is calling unto Himself in these last days – a people who are *willing to learn His ways*.

Again, let me quote *Psalm 77:13*: "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary." During the 40 days that Moses spent with the Lord in the Mount, the Lord revealed to him the details for the building of sanctuary (Tabernacle). The Lord then admonished Moses: "And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount" (*Ex. 25:40*). In contrast to this temporal Tabernacle which served the Israelites in the wilderness, in *Hebrews 8:2* we have reference to "the sanctuary" and "the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." This true (real) sanctuary or tabernacle is the church, which the Lord Jesus said He would build (*Matt. 16:18*). The temporary Tabernacle in the wilderness was but a TYPE of the real and permanent.

Now the question is simply this: is it not foolish to think that God would be so meticulous about detailing the PATTERN for a temporary Tabernacle in the wilderness made out of perishable materials, and yet fail to give a PATTERN for the reality of which it was a type, even the true tabernacle (church) which the Lord Jesus is building? And yet most Christians fail to realize that there is a DIVINE PATTERN and ORDER for the church given in the New Testament. After Moses had made all things "according to the pattern," the Tabernacle was erected and everything was "set" in its proper order. We read of this in *Exodus 40*. Notice God's instructions to Moses:

"And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the veil. And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof. And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle. And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation. And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water there."

Exodus 40:3-7

Notice that everything had to be brought in and “set” in the proper place as God commanded. Beginning with *verse 19* of this chapter, we see how Moses carries out God’s instructions. The phrase “*as the Lord commanded Moses*” is used *seven* times in the rest of the chapter showing Moses’ obedience. Following this we read:

“Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.”

Exodus 40:34-35

Of this I am convinced: the glory of the Lord would *never* have filled that Tabernacle if Moses had not made all things “according to the pattern,” and if he had not “set” every article in its proper place according to God’s Divine order. How much more important is it that the “true tabernacle” (the church) be “set” in “divine order” by our Moses (Jesus) that it might be *filled with the glory of God*.

The “glory” of God is the “presence and power of God in the midst of His people” – manifested in one way or another. In the Old Testament His “glory” is primarily associated with the visible “glory cloud” which filled the Tabernacle, and which led the Israelites through the wilderness. In the New Testament the “glory” of God is the *reality* of His *Presence* and *power* through the Holy Spirit. The result of this presence and power is the manifestation of the divine attributes and perfections in His people, such as love, joy, peace, victory, deliverance, miracles, wisdom, knowledge, faith, revelation, divine utterance, etc. The “glory of the Lord” in His Body is to bring that Body into His own perfection and fullness. The Lord wants to fill His Body with His Glory, not just in part, but in *fullness*; and this will happen only as we submit ourselves to His divine order for His church. . . letting Him “set” each member in the Body as He chooses. This IS going to happen, and God has patterned it in His Word as follows.

The KEY is found in a statement made in *Acts 13*, by the Apostle Paul as he preaches in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia. Recounting the history of their people, Paul says:

"And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul, the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom He gave testimony, and said, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after Mine own heart, which shall fulfill all My will."

Acts 13:21-22

"Saul" means 'asked for'. God allowed the people to have Saul because they *desired* a king and 'asked for' him. In time God removed Saul and raised up David, because in him God saw a man after His own heart, who would *fulfill* all His will. God is now "raising up" a David company who will fulfill God's perfect will and order for His church in these last days. Saul represents, in type, the old order of man-controlled churches which are a result of the desires of the people; and what the people 'ask for' God gives, so that they might *learn by experience* the folly of their own desires and ways.

One of the first things that David wanted to do after He was raised up to the throne was to bring the ARK back to Jerusalem. He said, *"let us bring the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul"* (*I Chron. 13:3*). Just think, during the entire reign of Saul, the Ark, which symbolized the very Presence of God in the midst of His people, was not in its rightful place, nor was the Lord enquired of at it. It was in the land of the Philistines for seven months after the Philistines had captured it, and when the Philistines sent it back it was placed in the house of Abinadab (*I Sam. 6:1, 7:1-2*). In type, the Ark represents *Christ*, the *head* of the church which is His *Body* (*Eph. 1:22-23*). In the man-controlled churches represented by Saul, the ARK (Christ the HEAD) is *not* in His rightful place. But David desires to bring the Ark back. Even so, there is a "David company" that God is raising up who are willing to fulfill all His Will and see that the Ark (Christ) is

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

restored to His rightful place as HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

But here we need to walk carefully, seeking the face of the Lord and examining His Word daily, for David made some mistakes, even though he wanted to do what was right. His first mistake was in consulting the leaders and the people instead of the WORD of God.

“And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the Lord our God. . . . let us bring again the ark of our God to us. . . . And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.”

I Chronicles 13:1-4

We should *not* do something because it is right in the eyes of the people or because some leaders we have counseled with say so. We should seek God and His Word, and let Him teach us by His Spirit.

Next we read that *“they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart”* (I Chron. 13:7). This was contrary to God’s Word because only the Levites were to *carry* the Ark with the specially made poles slipped through the rings on the Ark. Not realizing this, David was bringing the Ark back on the cart. *“And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.”* My, what a glorious meeting they were having; a real “Pentecostal” campaign! Everything went fine until they came to the *“threshingfloor of Chidon.”* There the oxen stumbled, and Uzza put forth his hand to hold the Ark.

“And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza and He smote him, because he put his hand to the Ark; and there he died before God.”

I Chronicles 13:10

Numbers 4:15 shows that none but the priests and Levites were in any way to approach or care for the Ark, so that Uzza was the victim of inexcusable ignorance of God's Word. We might think that God was unreasonably harsh, and yet we must realize that God was teaching them a necessary lesson, as well as enacting a TYPE or PATTERN for us that we might learn.

Notice that God did not intervene until they reached the **"threshingfloor of Chidon."** A threshing floor is a type of JUDGMENT: a place where the wheat is separated from the chaff. Such was pointed out by John the Baptist in his words recorded in **Matthew 3:11-12**.

"He (Christ) shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire; Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His (threshing) floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The "threshing floor" represents a place of humbling and breaking (the grain trampled), a place of separation (wheat from chaff), and a place of testing and purging (fire). Even so is the Lord putting us through fires of testing and purging, separating from our lives those things which hinder His working, and causing us to be broken and humbled before Him in a way that we have never known before.

Just as in the TYPE God overlooked the ignorance and carelessness of David and the people **UNTIL** they reached the **"threshingfloor of Chidon,"** even so the Lord has overlooked our ignorant and wayward ways regarding His church, **BUT NOW JUDGMENT HAS BEGUN TO INTERVENE.** God is causing us to realize that He will not allow that which He has allowed before, if we want the fullness of His blessing. ***We must take our hands off of the ark.*** God caused the oxen to stumble at the **"threshingfloor of Chidon"** as a TEST. And the reaction of Uzza portrays that which is so characteristic of human nature. It is so human to want to put forth our hands and try to **PROTECT** what God is doing. We feel we have to organize, systematize, programize, publicize, officialize, etc.

what God is doing so that it will be protected and preserved and propagated. Uzza putting forth his hand symbolizes the attempt to rely on the "arm of flesh" which was the great sin of the Israelites, and has also been the great sin of the church. God spoke through Jeremiah thus: *"Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord"* (Jer. 17:5). God wants us to keep our hands off what He is doing.

In *I Chronicles 13:11*, we read that *"David was displeased, because the Lord had made a breach upon Uzza wherefore that place is called Perez-uzza to this day."* Perez-uzza means 'breach of Uzza'. It means a 'breaking forth or through'. Later David realized that God had made a "break through" upon them by killing Uzza because they were not bringing the Ark back according to His Divine Order. Hear his words in *I Chronicles 15:13*: *"The Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought Him not after the due order."* People, God is going to "break through" in judgment upon the church in this day because Christendom is not seeking His Divine Order for His church. We need to realize that the Lord cannot sanctify with the fullness of His glory an end-time "tabernacle" or "house" until we get that house in divine order.

In *I Chronicles 15*, we have the record of David's success in bringing the Ark back to Jerusalem. This time he is careful to do it God's way, for he said:

"None ought to carry the Ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the Ark of God, and to minister unto Him forever."

I Chronicles 15:2

"So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the Ark of the Lord God of Israel. And the children of the Levites bare the Ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord."

I Chronicles 15:14-15

As the Ark was returning, we read that certain priests “*did blow with (seven) trumpets before the Ark of God*” (*I Chron. 15:24*). In its *final* application the return of the Ark to Jerusalem is a picture of the personal return of Christ to this earth. Going before (preceding) that return we have the *seven trumpets* of *Revelation 8-11*. Christ’s return is at the consummation of the 7th, or last, trumpet. BUT FIRST, Christ (the Ark) must “return” to His rightful place AS HEAD OF THE CHURCH, that He might bring the BODY into His perfection and fullness. Even so, there is now a “trumpet ministry” which is “going before the Ark” to HERALD ITS RETURN, and to sound forth (trumpet) a MESSAGE of preparation and sanctification, saying “. . .*sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the Ark of the Lord God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it*” (*I Chron. 15:12*).

Previously we mentioned that: David said, “*The Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order*” (*I Chron. 15:13*). The word “breach” used in this passage is the same Hebrew word used in *Nehemiah 6:1* where Nehemiah says that he had “*builded the wall, and there was no breach (break) left therein.*” In ancient times a WALL was a city’s protection. If was absolutely necessary in those days of marauding bands of robbers and constant threat from hostile tribes and nations. After the Jewish “remnant” had returned from Babylon, they began to rebuild the Temple of God as recorded in the *Book of Ezra*, but the wall was still broken down. God then raised up Nehemiah to return from Babylon to lead the people in the task of rebuilding the wall, as recorded in the *Book of Nehemiah*. Not until the wall was built was there real success in that which the Lord had commissioned the people to do. THE WALL is a type of Divine Order. It is our protection, both from the enemy (Satan), and from a “break through” of the righteous judgment of God. Divine Order for the church is absolutely necessary for the success of that which God has commissioned us to do.

Another example of the use of the word “breach” is found in *Ezekiel 13*. God accuses the “prophets” of failing to fill in

the breaches and build up the wall in preparation for the "day of battle." Hear the words spoken through Ezekiel the Prophet:

"Son of man prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts. Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like foxes in the deserts. Ye (prophets) have not gone up into the gaps (breaches), neither made up the hedge (wall) for the house of Israel TO STAND IN THE BATTLE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD."

God's judgment upon present day prophets (preachers) is that they are not filling the gaps (breaches) nor building up the WALL OF DIVINE ORDER so that the people may be prepared to STAND IN THE BATTLE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD. The "battle" of the "day of the Lord" IS AT HAND. Instead, the preachers of today are building up the walls of their own kingdoms and organizations and telling the people that "everything is all right" (peace). They are thus fulfilling the words of *Ezekiel 13:10*:

"Because, even because they have seduced My people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar (or, as the Berkeley translation puts it, "daub it over with whitewash")".

Beloved, this is a hard word, but it is true. Preachers as a whole (there are notable exceptions), whether they realize it or not, are engaged to a great degree in a big job of white-wash of the man-made walls (systems) which have been erected before them, and of which they have become an integral part. The Lord God has commissioned us to,

"Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar (whitewash), that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it (a picture of the JUDGMENT which is

coming). *Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye daubed it? So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar."*

Ezekiel 13:11-12,14

God says in *Ezekiel 22:30*,

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge (wall), and stand in the gap (breach) before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

God found none in Ezekiel's day, but we can be thankful that He is finding men in this day who will stand in the breaches and BUILD UP THE WALL OF DIVINE ORDER, that we may stand in the "day of battle."

People, we can talk a lot about "divine order," and there is a divine order for everything – our lives, the home, the church, the nation, etc., but unless we have the *willingness* to *obey* in our hearts, then all of our talk will avail nothing. Divine Order begins in the *heart*, with a willingness to set our own house (inner life) in *order* first, that the *spirit* of reason and righteousness may *RULE* instead of the soulish desires and emotions. Having begun in the heart, we can then see that willingness to have all things conformed to His Divine Will and Plan extend to all of our other relationships.

I have not here sought to set forth the many "ways" of God; I have sought only to show you how important it is to *seek* and *learn* His "ways." Do you not see how important it is in this hour to seek God and His Divine Will in everything; and to abandon everything that is not of Him, as you would flee from a building that is about to collapse? Will you not be among that "Moses company" that the Lord is *CALLING* up into His "holy mount" to teach them *HIS WAYS*? Harken unto the voice of God in this hour; for time quivers in the balance, and the very heavens and earth quake in anticipation of His appearing. But first, He will "appear" in Spirit and power in a Body that He is preparing, to show forth His glory; yes, a people who will walk in *HIS WAYS*.

REBUILDING IN TROUBLESOME TIMES

People need to be warned, for a sword is coming upon the land. And a terrible scourge is on its way. It comes while people are unconcerned about God's ways and seek to walk in the stubbornness of their own heart. It is time for the Lord to judge the earth and not pass it by any more (*Amos 7:8*). The time has come when judgment will come swiftly. The time is short, so redeem the time and make preparation (*Eph. 5:14-18*). For the Lord of the whole earth is ready to bring judgment and to purge and cleanse the earth.

Therefore, it is not time to build your own house and to consume yourself on your own pleasures, and yet not consider that the Lord's house lies waste. Where are those who will abandon their own pursuits and turn from their folly and give themselves to the Lord? His house will be built. His people will come forth and return to Zion with everlasting joy and singing; for that which has laid waste will be built. It shall be built in a time of trouble and in a time of great lamentation for the inhabitants of the world. But God's people will be joyful even in the midst of tribulation. For the power of their God will be upon them. And the joy of their God will uphold them. Even in a time of Great Tribulation God will build His house. For He will have a glorious house in these last days. It is written that the glory of this latter house will outshine the glory of the former (*Hag. 2:9*). The Lord is the Master Builder, and has laid down the plans for that which He will build. Why then do so many in the churches seek to build with their own plans and their own ideas, when the

Lord's Plan has been given already? Search and seek out that which He has given in His Word. Seek that ye might find, and ask that ye might receive, for He will give instructions on how to build His house; but it must be built according to His plan and purpose or it will surely fall.

The Lord is not speaking about some house or building of wood and stone, but rather of the spiritual "house" (temple) of God. Peter says:

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

I Peter 2:5

In *Hebrews 3:6* we read:

"But Christ as a son over His own house; Whose house we are, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

Paul says in *Ephesians 2:20-22* that,

"...[we] are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone: In Whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In Whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

But men have neglected the true house (temple) of God and have sought to build their own "houses" (denominations, organizations, groups, etc.). A picture of this is seen in the writings of Haggai the Prophet. Haggai was one of the Prophets God used to *stir up* the people to finish *rebuilding* the house (temple) of God after the return from the Babylonian captivity. The people had begun to build, but because of opposition from without and difficulties within, the work had *ceased*. The house of God was then neglected for about sixteen years, during which time the people turned to their own pursuits, became interested in building their own houses, and let the house of God remain in an unfinished state of "waste." At

this time God raised up Haggai to admonish the people to once again build the house of God.

Let's look to the admonition of Haggai the Prophet, for truly his words are appropriate and relevant to the conditions which we find today.

"Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the Prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house (temple) lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit."

Haggai 1:3-7,9-10

Yes people, we need to *consider our ways*, and realize that our ways are not His ways, and that our ways are an abomination unto Him. Our failure to build the true spiritual house (temple) of God has resulted in consequences similar to those described by Haggai, except to us they are primarily spiritual rather than physical. And what are these consequences? We have "sown much" with all of our multiplied efforts, campaigns, drives, programs, publicity, spending of time and money with all the modern media at our disposal, yet we have "brought in little." And much that has been brought in has been put into a bag with holes in it. In other words, it has not lasted. God has "blown" upon it with His testings and provings and it has been scattered. We have looked for much and it came to little. WHY; yes WHY? *"Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man to his own house."* Yes, every man is interested in building up his own denomination, organization or group, and *the true spiritual temple of God is not built.*

How divisive and sectarian have been our ways! How selfish have been our motives! How much we have sought to build for ourselves that we might boast in that which we have done! How we have ***“ceiled and paneled”*** our own organizations while the house that the Lord wants to build lies neglected. When will we awaken and come to repentance? When will we quit trying to do something for God, and just be obedient vessels to be builded together in that true spiritual house which He is erecting. Yes, we need to consider our ways!

We see a further consequence in the words of Haggai: ***“Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew (the “latter rain” is withheld), and the earth is stayed from her fruit (the “harvest” of this age is delayed)” (Hag. 1:10).*** We need to understand that the present move of the Spirit of God in all denominations is NOT the “latter rain” promised in God’s Word. The “latter rain” will far exceed anything we see now. The present move of the Spirit is a preliminary move of God to STIR UP the people of God and cause them to SEE that which God wants concerning His true temple, and to call out a “remnant” in preparation for the “latter rain.” For we read that ***“the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel. . .and the spirit of Joshua. . .and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came (out of their own houses) and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God” (Hag. 1:14).*** We have been “stirred up” by God’s moving in our midst. NOW is the time to have our eyes opened to SEE God’s Plan for His house (church) and begin to BUILD according to His pattern.

When we see what seems to be such an insignificantly small group today who understand this vision of an end-time church filled with the glory and power of God, we may feel much like those to whom Haggai spoke these words: ***“Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it now in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing” (Hag. 2:3)?*** The temple which they saw being rebuilt didn’t seem like much compared to the glory of Solomon’s Temple which had been destroyed, and which some of them remembered.

Even so that which we see today doesn't seem like very much in comparison with what we read about in the *Book of Acts* concerning the glory and power of the early church. But hear the words of Haggai:

"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua. . .and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts. . . My Spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. . . and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former; saith the Lord of hosts. . . ."

Haggai 2:4-5,7,9

In TYPE, Solomon's Temple represents the "former house" or church of the first century, which was "filled with glory" on the day of Pentecost. Just as there were 120 disciples gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, so in the type there were "*an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets,*" at the dedication of Solomon's Temple (*II Chron. 5:12*). As they were in one place and in *one accord* on the day of Pentecost, so in the TYPE we read,

"It came to pass, as the trumpeter and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord. . . that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God."

II Chronicles 5:13-14

Even so, on the day of Pentecost, the "glory of God" (the Holy Spirit) "filled" the house (people) of the Lord gathered in the upper room.

If Solomon's Temple, as the "former house," is a type of the early church, then certainly Zerubbabel's Temple, the "latter house" of which Haggai spoke, is a TYPE of the church of these last days, which will be filled with greater glory than the "former" or early church. Yes, we can expect more of the

“glory” and “power” of God in these last days than has ever been manifest before.

According to Haggai, this “glory” is to be manifest at a time when the Lord will be “shaking” all things. *“And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Hag. 2:7).* This “shaking” process is now going on and will grow in intensity until we see the fulfillment of *Hebrews 12:26-29*,

“Yet once more I shake not the earth only but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that may be shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.”

God is “shaking” the religious “heavens,” the political “heavens,” the financial “heavens”; He is shaking all the earth (organizations and systems of man); and all of these “rumblings” are the prelude to the great “earthquake” (*Rev. 6:12, 11:13*) which shall see the complete collapse of all that “can be shaken.” Even so our God is now arising to “*shake terribly the earth*” (*Isa. 1:19-21*).

NOW is the time to heed the voice of the “Haggai” that the Lord is raising up to trumpet this call for a “remnant” to REBUILD the house of the Lord in these troublesome times. A pattern of this is seen in the difficulties encountered by the “remnant” which returned out of Babylon to rebuild the house of the Lord. There were many internal obstacles to overcome, as well as tremendous opposition from surrounding peoples. Read the *Books of Ezra* and *Nehemiah* for the details. Even so, according to this pattern, the latter-day house (church) is going to be REBUILT during times of extreme difficulty. We are now in the very inception of this rebuilding.